

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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12

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SMI-01 DRC-01 RSC-01 /021 W

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R 290215Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL BRISBANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0460

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

UNCLAS BRISBANE 0094

FOR: SMITHSONIAN OBSERVATORY, CAMBRIDGE, MASS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, AS

SUBJECT: POISONOUS TOAD INFESTATION

POISONOUS TOAD MENTIONED IN REFTEL IS BUFO MARINUS, COMMON NAME CANE TOAD. CANE TOAD NOT NATIVE TO QUEENSLAND.

INTRODUCED APPROXIMATELY 1934 TO COMBAT CANE BEETLE. THUS, NO NORMAL RANGE IN AUSTRALIA. MAINLY CONFINED TO QUEENSLAND AT PRESENT.

MATURE CANE TOAD ATTAINS LENGTH OF 6-8 INCHES, LIVES APPROXIMATELY 3 YEARS. POSSESSES POISONOUS GLANDS ON BACK WHICH CAN CAUSE DEATH TO SNAKES, BIRDS, CARNIVOROUS MARSUPIALS, DOGS, ETC. WHICH EAT THE TOAD. NOT DANGEROUS TO HUMANS UNLESS EATEN.

POSSESSES GREAT REPRODUCTIVE CAPACITY. FEMALE AND LAY UP TO 100,000 EGGS IN SIX WEEK PERIOD. NO PRESENT FIGURES ON POPULATION DENSITY; HOWEVER, GREATEST DENSITIES OCCUR IN PERIODS WET, WARM WEATHER, WHICH IS TYPE PREVAILING IN CENTRAL COASTAL QUEENSLAND.

QUEENSLAND MUSEUM, FORTITUDE VALLEY 4006, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA, COMPLETING STUDY OF CANE TOAD. CONSULATE WILL FORWARD COPY OF STUDY WHEN FINISHED. "INFESTATION" MENTIONED UNCLASSIFIED

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IN REFTEL MAY REFER TO TWO RECENT ACCIDENTS AT PERTH AND

DARWIN AIRPORTS IN WHICH BOXES CONTAINING TOADS FOR  
LABORATORY STUDY ACCIDENTALLY BROKE OPEN ALLOWING TOADS TO  
ESCAPE. MOST TOADS HAVE BEEN RECOVERED, BUT IN VIEW OF TOADS  
REPRODUCTIVE POTENTIAL AND DARWINS WET, WARM CLIMATE, EFFORTS  
STILL UNDERWAY TO RECAPTURE TOADS STILL AT LARGE.

FRIEDMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAMBRIDGE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POISONOUS TOAD INFESTATION POISONOUS TOAD MENTIONED IN REFTEL IS BUFO MARINUS, COMMON  
**TAGS:** TGEN, AS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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